

Production No. 8F01

The Simpsons

"MR. LISA GOES TO WASHINGTON"

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REVISED TABLE DRAFT

Date 3/08/91

"MR. LISA GOES TO WASHINGTON"

Cast List

HOMER.....DAN CASTELLANETA
MARGE.....YEARDLEY SMITH
BART.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
LISA.....YEARDLEY SMITH
BURNS.....HARRY SHEARER
SMITHERS.....HARRY SHEARER
LENNY.....HARRY SHEARER
MOE.....HANK AZARIA
BARNEY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
NELSON.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
TELLER.....HANK AZARIA
TV ANNOUNCER (V.O.).....HARRY SHEARER
OLDER GIRL.....JOANN HARRIS
MINNESOTA GIRL.....LONA WILLIAMS
ALABAMA BOY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
YANKEE GIRL.....PAMELA HAYDEN
QUEENS BOY.....HANK AZARIA
JASPER.....HARRY SHEARER
FEMALE JUDGE.....MAGGIE ROSWELL
DAD.....HANK AZARIA
FLIGHT ATTENDANT.....HARRY SHEARER

PAGE 2.

MAN #1 (ON PLANE).....DAN CASTELLANETA
PILOT.....HANK AZARIA
IRS MAN.....HARRY SHEARER
HOTEL GUEST.....HANK AZARIA
MISS CROWLEY.....MAGGIE ROSWELL
TRUONG VAN DINH.....JOANN HARRIS
MARIA DOMINGUEZ.....PAMELA HAYDEN
TIMOTHY.....PAMELA HAYDEN
WORKER.....HANK AZARIA
GUIDE.....HARRY SHEARER
BARBARA BUSH.....MAGGIE ROSWELL
LOBBYIST.....HARRY SHEARER
BOB ARNOLD.....HANK AZARIA
SECRETARY (V.O.).....PAMELA HAYDEN
GUY.....HANK AZARIA
MAN #2 (AT MEMORIAL)....HANK AZARIA
NEWLYWED.....HARRY SHEARER
WOMAN #1.....MAGGIE ROSWELL
WOMAN #2.....PAMELA HAYDEN
OLD TIMER.....HARRY SHEARER
JEFFERSON.....DAN CASTELLANETA
SONGSTER.....HARRY SHEARER
PAGE.....DAN CASTELLANETA
SENATOR.....HANK AZARIA

PAGE 3.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE...HARRY SHEARER
AGENT.....HANK AZARIA
FEMALE AGENT.....PAMELA HAYDEN
SPEAKER.....DAN CASTELLANETA
MAJORITY LEADER.....HARRY SHEARER
OFFICIAL.....HARRY SHEARER
MESSENGER.....HANK AZARIA
PRESIDENT.....HARRY SHEARER
FOREIGN DIGNITARY.....HANK AZARIA
PAPER BOY.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT

MR. LISA GOES TO WASHINGTON

BY

George Meyer

ACT ONE

Scene 1

FADE IN:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

HOMER is standing by the wastebasket, sorting the mail.

HOMER

Stupid junk mail... (READS, SNEERING)

"You May Have Already Won!" Yeah,

win this... (DISCARDS IT) "Urgent,

Act Now"... Okay! (DISCARDS IT)

"Here's Good News for Homer

Simpsoy"... I'll see that he gets it.

(DISCARDS IT) How dumb do they think

I am?

HOMER'S POV

A bulky Publisher's Clearinghouse-type envelope. A "check" can be seen through the little window, reading: "We Will Pay To The Order of Homer J. Simpson..."

BACK TO SCENE

HOMER (CONT'D)

(TAKEN IN) Huh? A check?

He TEARS open the envelope to reveal the figure: "One Million Dollars!!!"

HOMER (CONT'D)

One million dollars! (STRANGE MOAN)

(HYPERVENTILATES)

Scene 1
(cont)

EXT. BANK - DAY

The sign reads, "Home Security Trust". Underneath is the bank's motto: "We're Not A Savings & Loan." Homer's car SCREECHES up.

INT. BANK

Homer's pen shakes as he fills out a deposit slip.

HOMER

(TREMBLING) One... million...
dollars... (REMEMBERING) Ooh, and
that check from Barney!

Homer pulls a check out of his wallet from "Barney Gumbel." The check design is a sophisticated top hat and white gloves. The memo says, "For '88 Super Bowl."

ON SLIP

We see Homer add "\$5.00" to the "\$1,000,000.00".

TELLER'S WINDOW

Homer keeps a wary hold on one end of the million-dollar check as the TELLER looks at it.

TELLER

Mr. Simpson, I can assure you that
this "check" of yours is non-
negotiable.

HOMER

(BELLIGERENT) And I can assure you
to shut up.

Scene 1
(cont)

TELLER

(PATIENTLY) I got one of these,
too. It's a gimmick to sell
magazines. (POINTS) See where

HOMER

it says "VOID-VOID-VOID"?

(PLUGGING EARS)

and "This Is Not A Check"? See?

ShutupShutupShutup-

"Cash value one twentieth of a cent"? Shutup!

"Mr. Banker: Do not honor..."

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Scene 2

Homer is sulking.

HOMER

I had a feeling it was too good to be
true. Every time you get a million
dollars something queers the deal.

LISA

(EYEING CHECK) I don't think real
checks have exclamation points.

MARGE

(HOLDING MAGAZINE) Well, at least we
got a free sample of Reading Digest.

Marge hands it to him.

HOMER

Marge, I've never read a magazine in
my life and I'm not gonna start now.
Something catches his eye.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Hey, a cartoon.

Scene 2
(Cont)

ON CARTOON - "MOTORING MS.-HAPS"

A WOMAN is standing on the street next to her car which is crumpled up like an accordion. She's trying to calm her angry HUSBAND.

HOMER

(READING CAPTION) "Well dear, you always said you wanted a compact." --
heh-heh-heh. Ain't it the truth.

MARGE

(FIRMLY) No, it is not the truth, Homer. It's well documented that women are safer drivers than men.

HOMER

Oh, Marge. Cartoons don't have any deep meaning. They're just stupid drawings that give you a cheap laugh.

Homer stands up and we see the crack of his butt over his pants.

INT. NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - NOON

Scene 3

Homer is lounging at his station, reading an article called "Can We Trust Bermuda?"

LENNY

Hey, Einstein. Put down your readin', it's lunchtime.

HOMER

(ENGROSSED) Nah, you go ahead.

LENNY

You don't wanna eat? What'd ya do, get one of them stonach staples?

HOMER

(CONSULTS PAGE, SMUGLY) As Tolstoy
said in "Quotable Notables," "Give
me learning, sir, and you may keep
your black bread."

Scene 3
(cont.)

MATCH DISSOLVE
TO:

INT. BURN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Homer is on a surveillance monitor. PULL BACK to reveal
BURNS and SMITHERS watching him.

BURNS

Who is that bookworm, Smithers?

SMITHERS

Uh, Homer Simpson, sir.

BURNS

Simpson, eh? How very strange. His
job description clearly specifies an
illiterate.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Bart and Lisa are watching TV. Homer is reading his
magazine.

TV ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

We now return to Troy McClure and
Delores Montenegro in "Preacher with
a Shovel."

Scene 3
(cont)

HOMER

Marge, look at them staring at the idiot box. God forbid they would ever read something and improve their minds.

MARGE

Homer, you've certainly taken a shine to that magazine.

HOMER

It's not just one magazine, Marge. It's hundreds of magazines. Everything from "Better Lawns and Hedges" to "Modern Backache". It gives me the warm feeling I used to get when my mom cut up my meat for me. (POINTING TO THE KIDS) They don't know what they're missing.

Homer turns off the TV.

LISA

Daaaad!

BART

What gives, man?

HOMER

We're all gonna sit down as a family and listen to an inspiring story of wilderness survival.

Scene 4

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Everyone is gathered around Homer as he reads.

HOMER

(READING) "Then I heard the sound
that all Arctic explorers dread: The
pitiless bark of the sea lion."

(TERRIFIED) He'll be killed!

MARGE

Homer, he obviously got out alive if
he wrote the article.

HOMER

(KNOWING) Don't be so sure.

Homer skips to the last page.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Oh, you're right.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Homer is absorbed in another article: "They Call Me
'Doctor Soybean.'" He's wearing reading glasses.

MARGE

(AMOROUSLY) Homie... Put down your
magazine for a minute...

HOMER

Hmph?

MARGE

I thought you might want to snuggle.

Scene 4 (CONT)

HOMER

Ooh, that reminds me! (FLIPS TO
ARTICLE) "Seven Ways To Spice Up
Your Marriage."

He reads it silently for a beat, his lips moving.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(STIFFLY) Marge, you have a nice
body. And if you'd like to see me in
a costume, you have only to ask.

MARGE

(A BIT PUZZLED) Well, thank you,
Homer.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - DINNER

Scene 5

The family is seated for dinner. Marge enters with a tray
of meatloaves shaped like gingerbread men (pimento eyes,
parsley smiles, etc.).

BART

Wow, little meatloaf men!

Bart bites the head off one.

LISA

Where did you get the idea for this,
Mom?

HOMER

Where do you think? (PATS MAGAZINE)
This baby never steers you wrong.
And it was free. Free!

MARGE

It certainly has enriched our lives.

Scene 5
(cont.)

HOMER

I'm saving the last page for
tomorrow. Ah, who'm I kidding, I'll
never make it 'til then! (LOOKS AT
LAST PAGE) Wow! "Win a Trip to
Washington"! "All expenses paid...
VIP tour"... (READS MORE,
DISAPPOINTED) Oh. It's for kids.

He tosses the magazine in the trash.

LISA

(PROTESTING) Wait, Dad!

Lisa fishes it out.

CLOSE ON AD

It says: "Reading Digest 'Patriots of Tomorrow' Essay
Contest."

LISA (CONT'D)

Hm. An essay contest. (SKIMMING)
"Children under twelve"... "Three
hundred words"... "Fiercely pro-
American." Sounds interesting.

MARGE

Bart, maybe this is something you'd
like to do, too.

BART

Mom, it's a nice thought. And I appreciate the fact that you're trying to give me a little credit. But we both know that this (PATS LISA) is the pony to bet on.

Scene 5
(cont.)

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LISA'S ROOM

Scene 6

CLOSE ON BOOK

It's a textbook diagram showing "How A Bill Becomes Law", with boxes for the House, Senate, President, etc. PULL BACK to reveal Lisa at her desk with several books on American Government and a writing pad.

LISA

Titles, titles. (WRITING) "My Country 'Tis of Thee"... Nah. (BEAT) "Sweet Land Of Liberty"... Hmm... Nah. (BEAT) "Of Thee I Sing"... (MAKES A FACE) P.U. "Land Where My Fathers Died"... (WRYLY) That'll leave 'em laughing.

Lisa TAPS her pencil thoughtfully. Marge enters.

MARGE

How's it going, honey?

LISA

Not very well. I can't even come up with a title.

Scene 6
(cont.)

MARGE

Well, when I used to get stuck like this, I'd go for a bike ride. Do kids go on bike rides anymore?

LISA

(WHAT A NUTTY QUESTION) Yes!

MARGE

I don't know, I thought maybe bikes weren't cool anymore. (SUDDEN THOUGHT) Do kids still use that word, "cool"?

LISA

(SMILES) Yes, Mom.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD NATIONAL FOREST - DAY

Lisa pedals her bike past a sign: "Springfield National Forest. Smoking Really Burns Me Up."

Lisa parks her bike under a majestic old oak tree. She's in the middle of a beautiful forest. Lisa sits down with her writing pad and breathes in the serenity.

LISA

Okay, America. Inspire me.

As she mulls it over, a BALD EAGLE flies in and sits on a branch in front of her.

LISA (CONT'D)

Wow, a bald eagle.

The eagle spreads its wings revealing that it has an olive branch in one talon and twigs that look like arrows in the other. It looks just like the great seal of the United States.

LISA (CONT'D)

Hmm...

Getting an idea, Lisa starts to write.

Scene 7

EXT. VETERANS OF POPULAR WARS HALL - THAT SATURDAY

Lisa and Homer walk through the parking lot.

LISA

Thank you for driving me to the
contest, dad.

HOMER

Sweetheart, there's nothing I
wouldn't do for that magazine.

INT. HALL - MEETING ROOM

Homer and Lisa enter the hall. SEVERAL CONTESTANTS are quietly rehearsing their essays as they wait to be called. One BOY is dressed as Paul Revere. Uniformed VETERANS, including JASPER, are the local judges. NELSON is reading. A banner behind him reads: "Essay Contest - Regional Finals".

NELSON

(READS) "So burn the flag if you
must. But before you do, you'd
better burn a few other things.
You'd better burn your shirt and your
pants. Be sure to burn your TV and
car. Oh yes, and don't forget to
burn your house. Because none of
those things could exist without six
white stripes, seven red stripes, and
a hell of a lotta stars." Thank you.

Nelson exits to APPLAUSE. The JUDGES mark their
scorecards. Homer CHEERS and WHISTLES.

HOMER

Scene 8

YEAH! Damn right!

MONTAGE

A series of KIDS from around America read their essays. We highlight their hometowns on a colorful map of the U.S. The map has symbols like a happy lobster for Maine, a bucking bronco for Texas, a guy wearing a barrel for Nevada, and an elderly woman with a cane for Florida.

ROSEMOUNT, MN

MINNESOTA GIRL

"Recipe for a free country: Mix one cup liberty with three teaspoons of justice. Stir in two cups of checks, sprinkle with balances..."

MOBILE, AL

ALABAMA BOY

"My back is spineless. My belly is yellow. I am the American Non-Voter..."

BOSTON, MA

YANKEE GIRL

(HAUGHTILY) "My family arrived on the Mayflower. And though we've been joined by 250 million gate-crashers since then, still the party rolls on.

ROSEMOUNT, MN

MINNESOTA GIRL

"... Add one informed electorate. Baste well with veto power..."

QUEENS, NY

Scene 8
(CONT)

QUEENS BOY

(SOLEMNLY) "Ding." "Dong." The
sounds of the Liberty Bell. "Ding."
Freedom. "Dong." Opportunity.
"Ding." Excellent schools. "Dong."
Quality hospitals...

INT. LEGION - MEETING ROOM - LATER

Scene 9

Lisa is finishing up.

LISA

(READING) In 1776, many of the trees
in Springfield Forest were tiny
saplings, trembling towards the sun.
And as they were nourished by Mother
Earth, so did our young nation find
strength in the Constitution. Who
would have thought such mighty oaks,
or such a powerful nation, could grow
out of something so fragile... so
pure. (CHOKED UP) Thank you.

The three JUDGES are clearly impressed. Homer dabs a tear.

CLOSE ON A SCORECARD

The card has ten categories: Originality, Clarity,
Organization, Delivery, etc. The judge gives Lisa all 9's
and 10's. A FEMALE JUDGE looks suspiciously at Homer as he
congratulates Lisa in the corner.

JASPER

(TO FEMALE JUDGE) What do you think?

Scene 9
(cont)

FEMALE JUDGE

It's good. A little too good for an
eight-year-old. (WRYLY) Methinks I
detect the sickly scent of the daddy.

She gets up and heads over to Lisa and Homer.

FEMALE JUDGE (CONT'D)

Mr. Simpson, I'd like to ask you a
few questions about your daughter's
essay. Lisa, will you excuse us?

LISA

(NERVOUS) Okay.

Lisa walks over to another area. The Paul Revere Boy's dad
is dressing him down.

DAD

"We the purple"? What the hell was
that?

Lisa looks over at Homer as the judge quizzes him. He
shrugs vacantly after each question. The judge gives Homer
a simple neurological test, asking him to touch his nose
with his eyes closed. Homer misses by several feet. After
the test, the judge and Homer walk over to Lisa.

FEMALE JUDGE

Lisa, after meeting your father, I've
decided to award you an additional
five points. Congratulations. You
and your family are going to
Washington!

Scene 9
(cont)

HOMER

Woo hoo! (HUGS LISA) Who would've
guessed reading and writing would pay
off?

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

Scene 10

FADE IN:

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

The Simpsons, including Maggie, are on their way to D.C.
Homer BUZZES the MALE FLIGHT ATTENDANT.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Yes, sir. Can I get you something?

HOMER

(TICKING THEM OFF WITH HIS FINGERS)

Playing cards, notepad, aspirin,
sewing kit, pilot's wing pin,
propellor-shaped swizzle stick,
sleeping mask and anything else I've
got coming to me.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

(TIGHTLY) I'll see what I can do.

A LITTLE WHILE LATER

Bart is repeatedly pushing his seat back hard and LAUGHING.
The MAN behind him is trying to work on a lap-top computer
on the tray table. He's getting annoyed.

MAN #1

Steward!

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Little boy, I bet you'd like to visit
the cockpit.

BART

Oh baby!

INT. COCKPIT

Scene 10
(cont)

Bart is wearing the CO-PILOT'S hat. Bart looks bored.

PILOT

(PATRONIZING) This here is the fuel gauge and this is the clock. Would you like to see where we hang our coats?

BART

No thank you, I'd rather push this button.

Bart pushes a button.

PILOT

(LOW KEY) No.

INT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

All the oxygen masks drop in front of the passengers' faces.

HOMER

We're all gonna die!

All the passengers start to panic and SCREAM.

EXT. AIRPORT

Scene 11

A LIMO DRIVER is standing there holding a sign that reads, "SIMPSON".

HOMER

Look, Marge, that guy has the same last name we do... (PASSING LIMO DRIVER) Taxi!

INT. TAXI - WASHINGTON - EVENING

The Simpsons' cab is stopped at a red light. Marge notices a huge building.

Scene 11
(cont.)

MARGE

Oooh, look, Homer. The IRS.

HOMER

(YELLS OUT WINDOW) BOOOOO!

An IRS employee YELLS back from his open window.

IRS MAN

(MILQUETOAST VOICE) Oh, boo yourself!

EXT. HOTEL - EVENING

The cab pulls up to their hotel.

MARGE

Here we are, kids! The Watergate.

INT. ELEVATOR

The Simpsons, carrying their bags, arrive at their floor. Bart hangs back to press all 32 elevator buttons. The board lights up. Bart exits and a HOTEL GUEST enters the elevator, as the door closes.

HOTEL GUEST

Hey!

BART

Heh-heh-heh.

INT. HOTEL - HOMER & MARGE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Marge and Homer are delighted with their room.

MARGE

(EXPLORING ROOM) Homer, look! They give you a shower cap, and body gel and bathrobes...(POINTS) Ooh, and a welcoming mint on your pillow.

HOMER

Scene 11
(cont)

Wowww -- A shoehorn! Just like in
the movies!

He tries it out.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Shoe goes on, shoe goes off. Shoe
goes on, shoe goes off.

INT. HOTEL - LISA & BART'S ROOM - NIGHT

Scene 12

Lisa in her PJ's, is practicing her essay under her breath
in front of the mirror. She throws in a few stiff, awkward
hand gestures.

BART

Hey, I call first bedsies!

LISA

Bart! There's no such thing as first
bedsies. You just made that up.

BART

Well, okay, which one do you want?

LISA

(DELIBERATES) Iiiiiiii Waaaaaannt...

(POINTS) That one.

BART

(MOCK AMAZEMENT) Really, you want
that one? It's all yours. Whatever
you say.

LISA

(SUSPICIOUS) Why? What's wrong with
it?

Scene 12
(cont)

BART

(INNOCENTLY) Nothing! Have a good
night's sleep, Lisa.

LISA

No, really, what?

BART

Nothing.

LISA

What did you do to it?

BART

Nothing.

LISA

(BEAT) MOMMM!

INT. HOTEL - HOMER & MARGE'S ROOM - MIDNIGHT

SFX: PHONE RINGS

Homer wakes up and groggily lifts his head from the pillow.
A chocolatey mess covers the side of his face.

HOMER

(ANNOYED GRUNT) Stupid welcoming
mint! (ANSWERS THE PHONE) Y'ello.

BART (V.O.)

(LADY'S VOICE) Hellooo. This is your
wake-up call.

HOMER

Wake-up call? (CHECKS WATCH) It's
midnight!

BART (V.O.)

(LADY'S VOICE) Oh, I'm sorry. My
mistake. I'll call back in two
hours. (HANGS UP)

HOMER

Two hours! No, you idiot!... Hello?
Hello?

We PAN through the wall to Bart and Lisa's room. They're
CRACKING UP.

INT. HOTEL - HOSPITALITY SUITE - THE NEXT MORNING

A banner reads: "Welcome Finalists!" Underneath is the
Reading Digest logo, with the motto: "Brevity is... wit".

A WOMAN approaches the family.

MISS CROWLEY

Lisa? I'm Faith Crowley, Patriotism
Editor of Reading Digest.

HOMER

Ooh! I love your magazine. My
favorite section is "How To Increase
Your Word Power." That thing is
really, really, really good.

MISS CROWLEY

Well... good.

Miss Crowley introduces a BOY and a GIRL.

MISS CROWLEY (CONT'D)

Lisa, I'd like you to meet some of
the other finalists. This is Truong
Van Dinh and Maria Dominguez.

Scene 12
(Cont.)

Scene 13

Scene 13
(cont.)

TRUONG/MARIA

Hello.

MISS CROWLEY

Maria is the national spelling bee champion, and Truong has won both the Westinghouse Talent Search and the NFL Punt, Pass and Kick Competition.

LISA

Have either of you run into any problems because of your superior ability?

TRUONG

(A BIT PUZZLED) Well, yes... occasionally.

MARIA

(CASUAL) Sure, I guess.

LISA

(OVERCOME WITH EMOTION) Me too!

She embraces them both.

One of the finalists, TIMOTHY, is talking to Homer, who is hovering by the shrimp bowl, shoveling in shrimp.

TIMOTHY

So when I get to college, I know I'm going to be torn between my first love, microbiology, and biochemistry.

HOMER

Hey... I hear ya.

Miss Crowley comes up to the Simpsons.

Scene 13(ONT)

MISS CROWLEY

(HANDS THEM BADGES) These are special
VIP badges. They'll get you into
places other tourists never see.

Homer looks at the "VIP" on the badge.

HOMER

Miss? What does the "I" stand for?

MISS CROWLEY

Important.

HOMER

Ooh... How about the "V"?

MISS CROWLEY

Very.

HOMER

Ooh... And Miss? Just one more
question --

MISS CROWLEY

Person.

HOMER

Ah! (BEAT) What does the "I" stand
for again?

Scene 14

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - ESTABLISHING

Out front, PROTESTERS are carrying signs that read:
"Things Are Fine," "No Complaints Here," and "No Opinion."

INT. WHITE HOUSE - BOWLING ALLEY

Bart and Homer are there wearing the VIP badges. Bart is
reading a plaque.

Scene 14
(cont)

BART

(READING) "Richard Nixon. Back-to
back-300 games."

HOMER

Yeah, right.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - BATHROOM

Lisa and Marge are washing their hands at the sink. There is
the Presidential Seal on the wall.

MARGE

Wow! The President's bathroom!

Lisa pulls the shower curtain aside to reveal an angry
BARBARA BUSH taking a bath.

BARBARA

Do you mind?! (BEAT) Oh, you have
those damn badges. (SIGHING) Okay,
this tub was installed in 1894...

INT. BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING

Homer and the rest of the family are leaning over a
railing, watching huge presses churn out hundred-dollar
bills.

HOMER

Mmmmmmm... Money.

He drools, and it lands on one of the WORKERS.

WORKER

(ANGRILY) Hey, watch it!

Scene 14
(Cont)

GUIDE

Folks, we print more than eighteen million bills a day. (SLYLY) Oh, and in case you were wondering... no, we don't give out free samples.

The TOURISTS CHUCKLE good-naturedly. We PAN to Homer who looks stricken.

HOMER

(BITTERLY) Lousy cheap country...

INT. NAT'L AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM - AIRPLANE SECTION

Bart is in the cockpit of an old airplane, making the SOUNDS of a furious DOGFIGHT.

BART

BREEEOOOWWW!!! Pocka-pocka-pocka!

Bart shifts the control stick rapidly.

HOMER

BART! Get out of the Spirit of St.

Louis!

INT. SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

The Simpsons are in the Television section. Maggie is SNOOZING on a brass bed with a sign above it that reads: "Love American Style." Homer gazes reverently at Archie Bunker's chair.

HOMER

Wowww. Archie Bunker's chair.

(MISTY-EYED) Son, I never knew what it meant to be an American until right now.

They walk past a Fred Flintstone suit on a torso mannequin to an exhibit of Fonzie's famous leather jacket.

Scene 15

Scene 15
(cont)

HOMER (CONT'D)

(A LA FONZIE) Aaayy! The Fonz!

LISA

(BLANKLY) The who?

HOMER

You never heard of Fonzie?

(PROMPTING) "Sit on it"? "Hey, Mister

C"? (OUTRAGED) I'm gonna pull you
outta that school.

EXT. PENTAGON

At a souvenir stand in front of the Pentagon, Homer is posing with a life-sized cardboard cutout of George Bush.

HOMER

(HAMMING IT UP) Hi there, old buddy.

How's my old pal, the President?

Heh-heh-heh.

Homer sticks two fingers up behind the President's head as the PHOTOGRAPHER SNAPS a picture and hands it to Homer.

HOMER

(EXAMINING POLAROID) Heh-heh.

Barney'll flip when he sees this.

EXT. WASHINGTON MONUMENT

Bart holds a balloon with an inflated George Washington head inside. Homer and Marge are looking at the Washington Monument. Marge GIGGLES to herself.

HOMER

What's so funny?

Marge WHISPERS in his ear.

Scene 15 (CONT)

HOMER (CONT'D)

Oh Marge, grow up.

EXT. CAPITAL - ESTABLISHING

Scene 16

INT. CAPITAL - CONGRESSMAN'S OFFICE

We see a map of the Springfield area, with Springfield National Forest outlined in red. WIDEN to show CONGRESSMAN BOB ARNOLD looking it over.

LOBBYIST (O.S.)

Congressman, this is Springfield

National Forest.

WIDEN to show a LOBBYIST from the logging industry is with the congressman. He's a big, strapping guy wearing a knit cap, lumberjack boots, and a plaid shirt under his traditional three-piece suit.

LOBBYIST

Basically, what we want to do is cut
it down.

On the easel, he flips over an artist's conception of the forest. It depicts a gloomy thicket of gnarled, rotting trees, choking with underbrush and thorny weeds. Snakes, buzzards and spiders fill the branches. A cute deer is pinned under a fallen tree.

LOBBYIST (CONT'D)

As you can see in our artist's
rendition it's full of old growth,
just aging and festering away. In
comes our logging company...

The next drawing depicts a delightful meadow full of tree stumps. Wildflowers abound; adorable chipmunks, fawns, and bear cubs cavort in harmony. Several animals are having a tea party on a stump.

Scene 16
(Cont)

LOBBYIST (CONT'D)

... to thin out the clutter. It's
all part of nature's, y'know, cycle.

ARNOLD

Jerry, no matter how big I get in
this town, I'll never forget the
lobbyists who put me here. And I'd
like to give you a logging permit.
But this isn't like burying toxic
waste. People are going to notice
those trees are gone.

They are silent for a beat.

LOBBYIST

Congressman... this is where it gets
awkward... I never quite know how to
put this... I just want to...

ARNOLD

...Offer me a bribe?

The Lobbyist taps his nose and smiles. They both CHUCKLE.
The intercom BUZZER interrupts.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

(ANNOYED) Ohhh... What is it?

SECRETARY (V.O.)

That little girl from Springfield who
wrote the essay. Could be a good
photo op.

ARNOLD

Sure, fine.

Scene 16
(Cont)

LOBBYIST

So, where do we...

He arches his eyebrows suggestively.

ARNOLD

(TO LOBBYIST) Not here. We need
some quiet place where no one ever
goes. Call me tonight. I love you.

He opens the door to his office and beckons to the
Simpsons.

Scene 17

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

Hi there! You must be Lisa Simpson.

LISA

Hello, sir.

ARNOLD

Lisa, you're a doer. And who knows,
maybe some day you'll be a
congressman or senator. We have
quite a few women senators, you know.

LISA

Only two. I checked.

ARNOLD

(TIGHTLY) Heh-heh. You're a sharp
one. How about a few pictures?

They pose in front of the state seal with the motto "Not
Just Another State". He shakes Lisa's hand repeatedly as
two PHOTOGRAPHERS materialize and take pictures.

The Lobbyist passes them on his way out.

Scene 17
(cont)

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

(SOTTO TO LOBBYIST) A tot shot always
plays in the sticks.

INT. MOE'S TAVERN

Moe is holding a copy of the Springfield Shopper. The front page has a big picture of the congressman shaking Lisa's hand, with the caption: "Never Too Busy..."

MOE

Isn't that nice. Now, there's a
politician who cares.

BARNEY

If I ever vote, it'll be for him.

(BELCH)

EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. - ESTABLISHING - EARLY MORNING

Scene 18

INT. HOTEL - HOMER & MARGE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lisa KNOCKS and enters the bedroom through the adjoining door. Homer and Marge are asleep.

LISA

Mom?

MARGE

(GROGGILY) Lisa, the contest isn't
for three hours.

LISA

I'm too excited to sleep. Anyone up
for the Winifred Beecher Howe
Memorial?

HOMER/MARGE

(GRUNT)

HOMER

(STILL HALF ASLEEP) Who's that?

LISA

An early crusader for women's rights.
She led the Floormop Rebellion of
1910. Later she appeared on the
highly unpopular 75 cent piece.

HOMER/MARGE

(GRUNT AGAIN)

LISA

Oh well... see you at the banquet.

INT. W.B. HOWE MEMORIAL - EARLY MORNING

Lisa is exploring the upper level of the monument. She
stops at an inscription.

LISA

(READING) "I will iron your sheets
when you iron out the inequities in
your labor laws." Amen, sister.

FOOTSTEPS ECHO below. Rep. Arnold and the Lobbyist slip in
from different sides.

ARNOLD

(LOOKING AROUND) I told you no one
ever came here.

Lisa reacts with a start as she recognizes the congressman.
Instinctively, she conceals herself. The two men meet at
the statue of the famous feminist, who stands triumphantly,
holding two broken halves of a mop.

Scene 18
(cont)

LOBBYIST

Scene 18
(cont.)

So, Bob, where do we stand on
Springfield Forest? Do I get my
logging permit?

Lisa pricks up her ears. The lobbyist opens a briefcase to
reveal a large amount of cash.

ARNOLD

(LOOKING IN BRIEFCASE) Tim-berrrr!

The lobbyist hands Arnold the briefcase full of cash. They
LAUGH together and it ECHOES through the hall. Lisa is
horrified. Arnold glances at the statue of Winifred Beecher
Howe.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

Ugh, what a pooch.

The two men exit as they came. Lisa is shattered.
Tearfully, she tears up her essay. The pieces flutter down.

ON ONE PIECE

We can read the title of her essay: "The Roots Of
Democracy."

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

Scene 19

FADE IN:

EXT. CAPITAL - REFLECTING POOL - DAY

Lisa sadly trudges along.

LISA

How can I read my essay now? I don't
believe my own words.

She sees the Lincoln Memorial reflected, upside-down, in
the reflecting pool.

MUSIC: BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

PAN UP to see the LINCOLN MEMORIAL.

LISA (CONT'D)

(EYES SHINING) Honest Abe. He'll
show me the way.

INT. LINCOLN MEMORIAL

Inside, Lisa finds DOZENS of other PEOPLE who had the same
idea. There's a BABBLE of VOICES.

MAN #2

Mr. Lincoln, I need your advice.
What can I do to make this a better
country?

NEWLYWED (WITH WIFE)

Is this a good time to buy a house?

WOMAN #1

I can't get my boy to brush proper.

WOMAN #2

The stick gets better gas mileage,
but the automatic is easier.

Scene 19
(cont)

OLD TIMER

...So I tries usin' turpentine, but
that jes' made it worse...

LISA

Mr. Lin...(RAISES HER VOICE) Mr.
Lincoln, my name is Lisa Simpson, and
I have a problem...

Her words are drowned out in the HUBBUB.

INT. JEFFERSON MEMORIAL - A LITTLE LATER

Scene 20

LISA

Mr. Jefferson, my name is Lisa
Simpson, and I have a problem.

JEFFERSON

(FROSTILY) I know your problem, the
Lincoln Memorial was too crowded.

LISA

Sorry, sir. It's just that...

JEFFERSON

No one ever comes to see me.
(SARCASTIC) I don't blame them, I
never did anything important. Just
The Declaration of Independence, the
Louisiana Purchase, the dumbwaiter...

LISA

Please, I mean no disrespect. You're
the Sage of Monticello.

Scene 20
(cont)

JEFFERSON

Don't patronize me, little girl.

LISA

Maybe I should be going. I caught
you at a bad time.

Lisa starts to exit.

JEFFERSON

Wait! Please don't go. (SADLY) I
get so lonely.

The WIND BLOWS a sheet of newspaper by.

EXT. CAPITAL BUILDING - STEPS - DAY

A disillusioned Lisa watches the CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS
walking in and out of the building.

DISSOLVE TO:

LISA'S POV ~

The hobnobbing legislators and lobbyists on the steps are
transformed into CARTOON CARICATURES: Big Business FATCATS
scratching each other's backs, and HOGS jostling each other
at Uncle Sam's trough. One of the pigs wipes his mouth
with the flag. CROSSING INTO FRAME is a MAN labeled:
"John Q. Taxpayer." He pulls a cart with a LAUGHING DONKEY
and an ELEPHANT in it. They whip him.

BACK TO SCENE

LISA

(GRIMLY) The truth must be told.

Lisa pulls out a pad and starts to write furiously.

INT. HOTEL - BART AND LISA'S ROOM

Scene 21

CLOSE ON BART'S FACE

Bart is GRUNTING. We hear SLAPPING SOUNDS. PULL BACK to
reveal that Bart is getting a massage from a BURLY MASSEUR.
Numerous room service plates are scattered around.

Scene 21
(cont)

BART

Ahh...Rudy my man, you're a miracle
worker.

A GUY enters carrying folded laundry and shined shoes.
Bart signs for it and includes a big tip.

GUY

(ENTHUSIASTIC) Thank you!

Homer enters.

HOMER

Bart, are you ready to go to...

(SHRIEK)

The masseur continues, unperturbed. Homer's shadow advances
on Bart.

BART

Homer, need I remind you, this trip
is "All Expenses Paid."

SMASH CUT TO:

Homer and Bart wearing plush terry cloth hotel robes,
getting a manicure and a pedicure. Homer smokes a cigar. He
and Bart CRUCKLE together.

EXT. KENNEDY CENTER - ESTABLISHING SHOT

Scene 22

A BIG BANNER reads, "Patriots of Tomorrow Awards Banquet."

INT. KENNEDY CENTER - CONTINUOUS

A SMALL CROWD is on hand for the essay finals. They're
seated at round tables decorated with little flags. All
CONTESTANTS are seated on the stage except Lisa, whose
chair is empty. An irrepressible SONGSTER much like Mark
Russell is the entertainment. He's finishing up a bouncy
satirical tune.

Scene 22
(cont)

SONGSTER

(SINGS) The Deficit Rag/Oh, yeah, the
Deficit Rag/Those budget gaps can be
a twelve-digit drag/That's the
deficit/They made a mess of it/That's
the Deficit Ra-a-g!

BART

(PLUGGING EARS) This guy is awful.

MARGE

I know, honey, but just sit still.

Miss Crowley takes the podium.

MISS CROWLEY

Welcome, everyone to the awards
luncheon.

MARGE

Homer, they're gonna start without
Lisa!

Homer points to the stage.

HOMER

No, there she is. Right there.

MARGE

That's not Lisa.

HOMER

Oh, you're right.

Scene 22
(cont)

MISS CROWLEY

I'd like to introduce our
distinguished judges who will select
our scholarship winner.

We PAN across as each stands and acknowledges the crowd.

MISS CROWLEY (CONT'D)

Former Redskins great Alonzo
Flowers... perennial third-party
candidate Wilson DeFarge...Senate
page Brad Fletcher... skin-care
consultant Rowena... and wealthy
gadabout Chilton Gaines.

The AUDIENCE APPLAUDS.

MISS CROWLEY (CONT'D)

Our first essayist will be Lisa
Simpson. (BEAT) ...Lisa?... Lisa?

Lisa BURSTS through two large doors and strides to the
podium.

LISA

(DETERMINED) I would like to read a
different essay, if I may.

Nonplussed, Miss Crowley looks to the panelists. They all
shurg their shoulders.

MISS CROWLEY

Uh... okay.

Scene 23

LISA

(READING) "The city of Washington was built on a stagnant swamp some 200 years ago, and very little has changed. It stank then, and it stinks now. Only today, it is the fetid stench of corruption that hangs in the air."

A stunned MURMUR sweeps through the audience. Miss Crowley looks aghast. PAN across the open-mouthed shock on the faces of the Simpsons to a delighted Bart.

BART

Cool! A ruckus!

The senate page steps into the...

KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Where he makes a call.

INT. SENATOR'S OFFICE - INTERCUT PHONE

PAGE

(TEENAGE BOY'S VOICE) Senator, there's a problem at the essay contest.

SENATOR

Please, I'm very busy.

PAGE

A little girl is losing faith in democracy.

SENATOR

Good lord!

Scene 23
(cont)

He rushes out the door.

EXT. KENNEDY CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Several limos SCREECH to a halt in front of the Kennedy Center. Also an Untouchables-type car with a gun-toting FBI AGENT riding on the running board, and an Army jeep.

INT. KENNEDY CENTER - BALLROOM

Lisa is winding up her essay. The audience is now in an **UPROAR**.

LISA

(READING ABOVE NOISE) "And who did I
see taking a bribe but my own
Congressman, The (AIR QUOTES)
"Honorable" Bob Arnold. But don't
worry, Congressman, I'm sure you can
buy all the votes you need with your
dirty money. And this will be one
nation, under the dollar, with
liberty and justice for none."

We hear an **ANGRY ROAR** from the audience.

In the back of the room, we SEE an ADMIRAL, a SUPREME COURT JUSTICE, an FBI AGENT, the Senator and the SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE listening to Lisa's speech. They look at each other and nod.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

Let's move!

EXT. KENNEDY CENTER

~~We SEE the limos SCREECH away.~~

MONTAGE

Scene 24

We see the federal government swing into action. We follow the process step-by-step, on a diagram like Lisa's "How A Bill Becomes Law."

Scene 24
(cont)

A) FBI

A FEMALE AGENT enters the office carrying an armload of files.

FEMALE AGENT

We've got all the evidence we need to nail this guy.

AGENT

You work fast.

FEMALE AGENT

(WITH PRIDE) I work for Uncle Sam!

B) HOUSE CHAMBER

SPEAKER

We will now vote on House Bill 1022, the expulsion of Bob Arnold.

MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. Speaker, I'm all for the bill, but shouldn't we tack on a pay raise for ourselves?

EVERYONE ELSE

(APPALLED) NO!!

BOB ARNOLD

This is unconstitutional!

C) SUPREME COURT

The justice bangs his gavel.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

No it's not.

D) SENATE CHAMBER

Scene 25

SENATOR

Mr. Chairman, the roll call shows 99
votes in favor of the measure, with
one senator absent.

A shocked MURMUR ripples through the chamber: "Absent?"...
"What the-?"... "How dare he!".. etc.

SENATOR (CONT'D)

He's having an emergency
appendectomy.

The SENATORS AD LIB: "Oh"... "Okay then"... "That's
different"...etc.

The bill now takes a dotted-line detour to:

E) BUREAU OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Its symbol is a scale.

OFFICIAL

I think you have the wrong branch of
government.

MESSENGER

Oh, sorry.

OFFICIAL

(POINTING) You want the white
building.

MESSENGER

Thanks.

F) WHITE HOUSE

An AIDE hands the bill to the PRESIDENT. A FOREIGN
DIGNITARY in a leopard-skin pillbox hat is meeting with
him.

PRESIDENT

This should make my bosses very
happy.

Scene 25
(cont)

FOREIGN DIGNITARY

(CONFUSED) Your bosses?

PRESIDENT

All 250 million of them.

He signs with a flourish.

CUT TO:

INT. KENNEDY CENTER BALLROOM - LATER

Scene 26

Truong is finishing his essay.

TRUONG

(READS) "When my family arrived in
this country four months ago, we
spoke no English and had no money in
our pockets. Today, we own a
nationwide chain of wheel balancing
centers. Where else but in America,
or possibly Canada, could our family
find such opportunity? That's why,
whenever I see the stars and stripes,
I'll always be reminded of that
wonderful word -- flag."

APPLAUSE. The judges look impressed.

MISS CROWLEY

There will be a brief recess while
the judges tabulate their votes.

Scene 26
(cont)

EXT. KENNEDY CENTER - A LITTLE LATER

The Simpsons are standing outside the center. A PAPER BOY passes SHOUTING the headline.

PAPER BOY

Extra! Extra! Feds nab rotten Rep!

CLOSE ON NEWSPAPER

The Washington Post headline reads: "EXTRA! Congress Cleans House." There is a picture of Bob Arnold behind bars.

MARGE

(READING PAPER) "Imprisoned
Congressman becomes born-again
Christian".

LISA

I can't believe it! The system
works.

BART

Hey, way to save democracy, man.

Lisa smiles.

INT. KENNEDY CENTER BALLROOM - LATER

Scene 27

The songster is again at the piano.

SONGSTER

(SINGS) Doin' the Trading Gap
Shuffle/I really mean it/ Doin' the
Trading Gap Shuffle!

BART

(IRRITATED) He already sang this
song!

Scene 27 (CONT'D)

MARGE

No, that was about the budget gap.

This is the trading gap.

Miss Crowley steps up to the podium.

MISS CROWLEY

And now, the moment of truth: Will

the winning essay be...

We PAN across the essayists as she reads each one's title.

MISS CROWLEY (CONT'D)

... "Bubble On, O Melting Pot"...

"Lift High Your Lamp, Green Lady"...

"USA: A-O.K."... or "Cesspool On The
Potomac"?

Hearing her title, Lisa blushes furiously. Bart crosses his fingers.

BART

(RAPID CHANT) Cesspool cesspool
cesspool...

The judges hand Miss Crowley their decision.

MISS CROWLEY

And the winner is, "USA: A-O.K." by
Truong Van Dinh.

APPLAUSE. Bart SLAPS his forehead in dismay. Lisa looks out at Homer and Marge, who smile back sympathetically. Miss Crowley hands Truong a giant check.

Scene 28

TRUONG

Miss Crowley, thank you for this
over-sized novelty check. I would
like to share this honor with all my
fellow essayists. Particularly the
courageous Lisa Simpson.

Lisa looks touched.

HOMER

(YELLS) Give her the check!

The audience LAUGHS, including Truong.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(TO SELF) I was serious.

The songster launches into a new tune.

SONGSTER

(SINGS) Say, let me tell you about
Lisa S./The little eight-year-old
muckraker-ess/ She caught a crook and
really made him pay/In one day/That's
what I would call/Being on the ball!

Everyone grins as he continues to play. Maggie offers Lisa
her pacifier.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

The Simpsons are on their way back to Springfield. Lisa
glances out the window and sees a BALD EAGLE placidly
flapping along next to the jet. The eagle winks at her,
then flies off. Lisa SIGHS happily.

FADE OUT.

THE END